

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
Vol. 26, No. 1
FEBRUARY 2009
ISSN 0836-531B

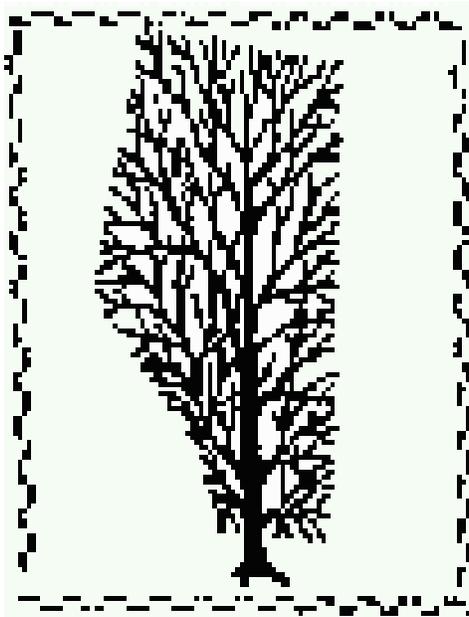


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A new year is upon us with great learning opportunities. As we try to extend our ancestral lines there are many helps available to us. First come and utilize Ancestry.com at our Library. If you are not a member there is a \$2.00 charge now in place. On March 19th we are bringing in two special speakers who are on the committee for the Germans from Russia International convention that will be held June 14-21 in Medicine Hat. This special evening will be held at the German Canadian Club in Lethbridge at 7:00 p.m... Refreshments will be served.

The Alberta Genealogical Society is hosting the Family History seminar April 18 & 19, in Edmonton. April 24-26 Regina, Saskatchewan is hosting the SGS Family History seminar. Always remember to learn as much as you can that may assist you in extending your ancestral lines!

Susan Haga
Lethbridge, A.G.S. President

EDITOR'S CORNER



If you want to submit articles, genealogy humor, interesting websites or have any queries you want us to print feel free to contact us. Please let us know of any articles you would like to see. You can drop off your submissions to our library or phone (403) 328-9564 or send an e-mail to lethags@theboss.net.

Susan Haga, Newsletter Editor

Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

Library Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 1:30-4:30 p.m. We hold meetings the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. September through May. Visitors are welcome!

Address: 1:28; 909 – 3rd Avenue North.
Phone: (403) 328-9564
<http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net/Exec.htm>

Membership Dues

In order to be a member, dues are required.
Branch: \$10.00
Alberta Genealogical Society: \$30.00
Seniors 65 and older receive a \$5.00 discount!

On Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., will be our Annual General Meeting and Social held at our library. Refreshments will be served.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Susan Haga
Vice President	Doug McLeod
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Secretary	Phyllis Burnett
Membership	Pat Barry

BRANCH COMMITTEE

B. M. & D. Cemetery Librarian	Muriel Jolliffe
Publicity	Phyllis Burnett
Researchers	Phyllis Burnett & Eleanor McMurchy
Computer	Phyllis Burnett & Doug McLeod
Program Coordinator	
Newsletter Editor	Susan Haga
Web Master	Anne Baines
Past Presidents	Eleanor McMurchy, Pat Barry, Phyllis Burnett & Winn Evans
Advisory Group	

Lethbridge Family History Center

Fall/Winter Hours:

Monday 9:00-5:00 p.m., Tues—Thurs 9:00-9:00 p.m., Fridays closed, and Sat 9:00-1:00 p.m.

Classes Offered

Thurs, Feb. 19—7:00 p.m. Canada Online--An overview of online Canadian records for researching your Canadian Roots. Ronna Byam
Wed, Feb 25—2:00 p.m. Evaluating Evidence & Recording Proof—Monta Salmon
Thur, March 12—7:00 p.m. Scotland Research including online—Find original parish records, obtain B.M.D. certificates at reasonable cost.—Monta Salmon.
Thurs, March 19—7:00 p.m. Advance England Research – How to find those elusive ancestors. Val Duncan.
Sat., March 21 at 9:30 a.m. Quebec Research—Tips & tricks on researching in Quebec--Raymond Huel.

Thur. March 26--7:00 p.m. Searching Immigration and Passenger Lists—When, Where and How of your immigrant ancestors. Erwin Easthope.

Sat., March 28--9:30 a.m. Basic German Research (1/4 of all immigrants to America were of Germanic heritage). Understanding German records is essential. Evelyn Laqua. (Please pre-register for classes at FHC—or phone 328-0206.)

The Lethbridge Historical Society

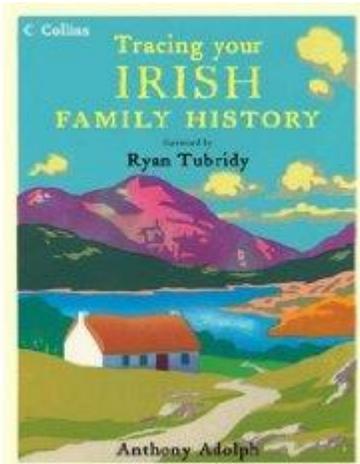
The Lethbridge Historical Society meets the 4th Tuesday of the month (September-November and January-April). Their February meeting is their annual banquet and they are bringing down a speaker, Brian Brennan, from Calgary to talk about Ernest C. Manning. It will take place on February 24 and tickets are \$31 (or \$29 for LHS members). Their meetings take place at the Sir Alexander Galt Museum & Archives.

New Titles in Genealogy at LPL:

Collins tracing your Irish family history

Adolph, Anthony.

929.10720415 A

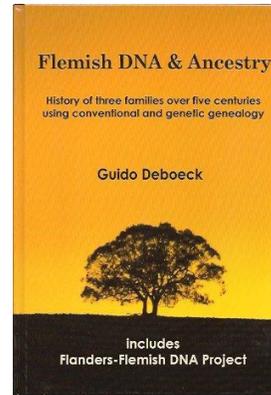


<http://www.gould.com.au/Tracing-Your-Irish-Family-History-p/hcpu006.htm>

“Provides a wide range of tools and information to discover your Irish ancestry. The text is packed with web links to enable you to search the great number of records available online, as well as providing contact information on other sources, such as archives and libraries. He explains how to trace family history in Ireland, starting from various countries around the world (including Ireland itself of course), as well as looking at surnames, heraldry, families of non-Irish origin, and fascinating stories of migration from Ireland.”

Flemish DNA & ancestry : history of three families over five centuries using conventional and genetic genealogy

Deboeck, Guido J., 1946-
SBGEN 929.20973 DEB



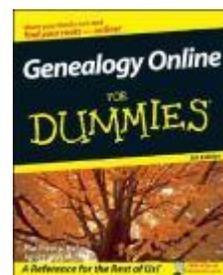
<http://www.flemishdna.com/FlemishDNA/Welcome.html>

“Combines in this book conventional and genetic genealogy to reveal the history of three Flemish families over five centuries. He describes the occupations of each of these families as well as the history of lace making, beer brewing, and immigration. With concrete examples he illustrates the interpretation of DNA results and the uploading of those results to public databases. The how-to-do section includes a description of various DNA tests, how to select among them, and how to use DNA to document the genetic inheritances of your children. This book also includes an introduction to the Flanders-Flemish DNA project with the first analysis of Flemish DNA records collected via the web and a summary of the deep ancestry.”

Genealogy online for dummies

Helm, Matthew.

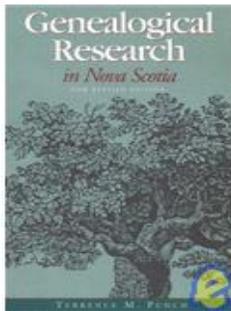
929.1028 H



<http://www.dummies.com/store/product/Genealogy-Online-For-Dummies-5th-Edition.productCd-0470240571.html>

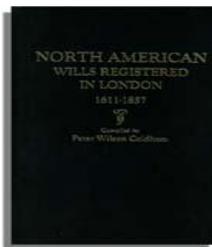
“Completely practical handbook helps you become a smart, discriminating researcher from the moment you start your investigation . . . easy-to-use guide does more than show you how to access and use online resources; it lays out a sensible organized process you can follow to make your research more efficient and achieve your genealogical goal faster. You'll learn how to start your research before you go online, understand traditional methods of genealogy, identify Web sites that will be helpful to your research, get vital information and statistics from government records, and much more”

Genealogical research in Nova Scotia
Punch, Terrence M.
SB 929.1 P



This newly revised 4th edition is a step-by-step guide through the sometimes confusing world of genealogical research from a preliminary dig through your grandmother's attic to a more thorough search the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Updated to put the researcher in touch with lesser-known resources such as a list of local genealogical societies and church repositories, this book will be an invaluable aid to anyone interested in tracing their roots in Nova Scotia.

North American wills registered in London, 1611-1857 Coldham, Peter Wilson.
SB GEN 929.3 N



<http://www.genealogical.com/products/North%20American%20Wills%20Registered%20in%20London%201611-1857/1093.html>

In Mr. Coldham's words, "This latest compilation celebrates both the completion by TNA of its massive indexing project nearly 150 years after the PCC closed for business and the culmination of a forty year long endeavour by the present author to assemble from myriad published and unpublished sources an adequate guide to American probate records to be found in the mother country. This has not only offered an opportunity to include a variety of relevant notes from previously published and newly researched sources, but has facilitated the provision of complete indexes to the names of witnesses, legatees and executors to supplement the alphabetical listing of testators to be found in the main body of this work. The places and ships mentioned in the testamentary documents have also been comprehensively indexed. Used judiciously these indexes can be used to provide a unique guide to the discovery of further genealogical and historical sources." (Submitted by Pat Schieman, Information Services, Librarian, Lethbridge Public Library.)

Interesting Websites

Missouri death certificates online with links to certificate images (1910-1957)
www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates

(A real gold mine if you have relatives, gives parents names, birth date, etc)

Arizona has birth (1855-1932) and death (1844-1957) <http://genealogy.az.gov/>

These are not indexes but actual certificates online at both sites, if you have family in these areas you can save yourself a small fortune in certificate fees!

Minnesota death index online
<http://people.nhs.org/dci/>

Often gives birthplace, mother's maiden name, death date and county so you can confirm you have the right person before ordering certificates,

Wisconsin bmd index pre 1907 and obits and news articles before 2000
www.wisconsinhistory.org/vitalrecords/

Ohio death index (1913-1935) and (1936-1944)
\$7.00 for actual copy
<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/death>

Cook County, Chicago bmd indexes (you must register (free) first)
www.cookcounty.genealogy.com

Births 75 yrs or older
Mar 50 yrs or older
Death 20 yrs or older

Georgia death certificates online 1919-1927
<http://content.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php>

Illinois Statewide Death Index 1916-1950
www.ilsos.gov/genealogyMWeb/IDPHDeathSearchServlet

North Dakota 1881 - present (you must search in 10 yr increments)
<https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/doh/certificates/deathCertSearch.htm>

Oregon Death Index 1903-1930 (coming soon birth index 1903-1908)
www.heritagetrailpress.com/Death_Index/

Utah Death Index 1905-1956 (actual death certificates)
<http://archives.utah.gov/research/indexes/>

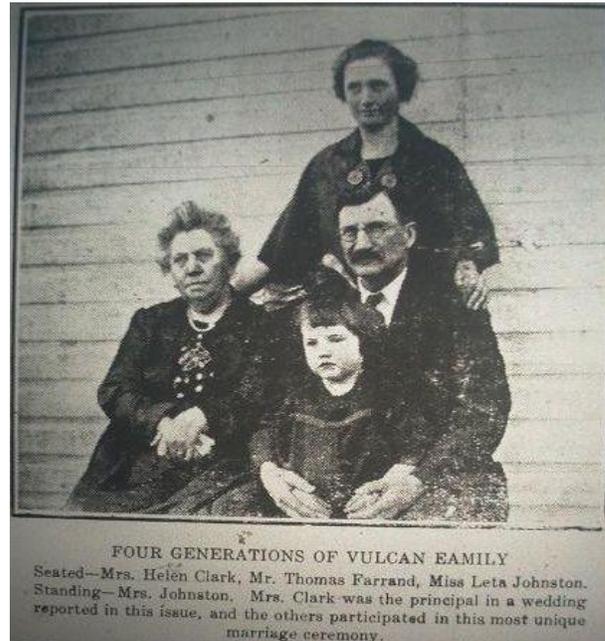
Members should check for other areas as well, free vital indexes are appearing frequently check google (place and death indexes).
(Submitted by Eleanor McMurchy)

Henderson Directories Digitized & Online
The Henderson Directories are digitalized and online for Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat/Redcliff, Alberta, Winnipeg, Brandon, Manitoba and Northwest Territories. See their website at:
<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/henderson.html>

Henderson's Directories go back as far as 1905. These directories were originally created as a business tool for growing cities and communities. It helped in providing information to business users in their local areas as well as nationally. They included businesses, schools, churches, cemeteries and government offices.

Henderson Directories as well as other directories included the location of cities, population, background of the citizens, and often give gazetteer like information. (Submitted by Eleanor McMurchy)

Taken from The Vulcan Advocate – Wednesday April 11, 1923



UNIQUE WEDDING Groom of 75 Marries Bride of 73 at Vulcan

When the principals in this event were in their teens they lived in St. Alban's, away back in Vermont. They were friends and their friendship was growing, but for the incident of a day this story of a romance would never be told.

They were on the street together when the girls crossed the way to greet some other friends. By the turn of events this was the separation of John Prentice and Helen Butler for some years, their next meeting being quite by surprise at Niagara Falls, after Miss Butler had become the wife of John N. Farrand.

Then long years and no knowledge of one another separated them. Each went their way in life, and during the period Mrs. Farrand became a widow and was again married to Mortimer Clark and with him and the family came to Vulcan district some fifteen or more years ago. Mr. Clark was the victim of an accident and died here some years ago. Of the families who continue to reside in Vulcan there are Mrs. George Ecker, Thomas Farrand, Earl Clark and Frank Clark.

John Prentice became a railway man, and for fifty-four years was in the service on the U. S. Lines, principally on the New York Central, and a short time ago retired on pension. He was also married and raised a family. Two years ago Mrs. Prentice died. The papers containing the obituary were sent out here to Mrs. Clark by her sister in the east. Mrs. Clark sent a message of condolence to the daughter of the deceased lady, who commenced a correspondence between the two, and eventually some of these were forwarded by the daughter to her father.

In love affairs things sometimes move in a mysterious way. Mr. Prentice with time, pension and a pass, ventured a letter to Mrs. Clark and suggested a visit, and with permission came on out West. The sequel is the subject of this article, and the railway contributed as their gift a pass for two to California.

The marriage of Mr. John J. Prentice and Mrs. Helen Clark is unique to the extent that it perhaps has not a parallel in many respects as the bride was given away by her youngest son, Mr. Frank Clark and her eldest son, Mr. Thomas Farrand, was groomsman; Mrs. Johnston (Erma Farrand), a grand-daughter was bridesmaid, and little Leta Johnston, a great grand-daughter, was ring bearer. Seldom, if ever, is there such a ceremony in which four generations of one family participate. The guests at this unusual event also included four grand children and the one great grand-daughter. It was a real family affair, held at the home of Mr. Frank Clark, on Thursday evening last, and was attended only by relatives.

Rev. Mr. Brunton officiated at the marriage, after which a wedding dinner was served by Mrs. Clark. Then the happy couple, who certainly did not look their years, left on their trip to California, to which country they take with them the best wishes of a host of friends, all of whom desire that they may realize still many years of sunshine and happiness together in the State that is known as golden. (Submitted by Doug Mcleod)

Difference Between http & https

The main difference between `http://` <`http://`> and `https://` <`https://`> is it's all about keeping you secure.

HTTP stands for Hypertext Transport Protocol, which is just a fancy way of saying it's a

protocol (a language, in a manner of speaking) for information to be passed back and forth between web servers and clients.

The important thing is the letter S which makes the difference between HTTP and HTTPS.

The S (big surprise) stands for "Secure". If you visit a website or web page, and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with the following: `http://` <`http://`>

This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular 'unsecured' language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website. If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site.

This is why you never ever enter your credit card number in an `http` website! But if the web address begins with `https://` <`https://`> that basically means your computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on.

If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with `https://` <`https://`>. If it doesn't, there's no way you're going to enter sensitive information like a credit card number. (Reference www.snopes.com)

U.S. DRAFT CARDS – WWI and WWII

During the First World War, there were three draft registrations held in the U.S. to bolster the military ranks when voluntary enlistment failed to provide the number of men needed.

The first draft held on June 05, 1917, all men born from 1886 to 1896 were required to register.

The second draft, June 05, 1918 covered men born from 1896 to 1897.

On September 12, 1918, all men from 18 to 45 that had not previously registered, which now included the birth years from 1873 to 1886 and 1897 to 1900. Men who were already serving in the military were not required to register. In all approximately 24 million men, whether they were native born, naturalized citizens or aliens were required to register. More than 80% received exemption or deferral and never served in the military.

For the first draft, men were asked to give their name, address, date and place of birth, occupation, employer, marital status, race and a brief physical description. They were also to declare whether they were U.S. citizens, an alien and/or if they had filed their intention to naturalize. If they were not U.S. citizens, they had to identify the country of citizenship. Draftees were also asked about their family members, father, mother, wife, children or siblings under 12. If they had any previous military service, including rank, branch and number of years and where they had served. Some were able to claim exemption from the draft but had to give their reasons. This might include they were needed on the farm or they were depended upon for financial support.

The second draft had similar questions but added the father's birthplace, including town, state or province and country. As well they were asked the name and address of their nearest relative whether in U.S. or elsewhere.

The September 1918 draft card had several changes but this time only required a birth date but not the location, all other questions remained the same.

George Salter's draft registration card

George was 25 yrs old, resided at Burlington Hotel and worked in the Great Falls Hotel in Great Falls, Montana as a cook. He is an alien, born in Peterborough, (sp) Canada, date of birth Oct 25, 1891, single, Caucasian, medium height, slender build, blue eyes and brown hair. He gives his military service as 3 yrs, rank as a corporal in the Calvary in Canada and he registered in Cascade County, Montana dated June 05, 1917.

These First World War draft registrations are online by subscription at www.ancestry.com under U.S. Military. The cards are a great source of information to fill in the years between the census records, may identify other family members, location and citizenship (an intent to naturalize could lead you to check for final naturalization papers and identify where and when he entered the USA).

World War II

The US entered the Second World War in December 1941 and by war's end all men aged 18-65 years were required to register. This fourth registration, known as the "Old Man's

Registration" was initiated on April 27, 1942. This is the only registration available to the public from this war. All men born between April 28, 1877 and February 16, 1897 were required to register or all men between the ages of 45 and 64 who were not already in the military. The questions asked were similar to the earlier drafts.

This database is an indexed collection of World War II U.S. draft registrations and is also available online thru the subscription based service: www.ancestry.com Original copies are also available thru NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) or on microfilm at Family History Library (FHL).

Ancestry.com cites - Information available on the draft cards includes:

- Name of registrant
- Age
- Birth date
- Birthplace
- Residence
- Employer information
- Name and address of person who would always know the registrants whereabouts
- Physical description of registrant (race, height, weight, eye and hair colors, complexion)

Additional information such as mailing address (if different from residence address), serial number, order number, and board registration information may also be available.

Which states are currently available in this database?

This database currently contains draft cards for the following states:

- Arkansas*
- California*
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Indiana*
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York*

- Ohio*
- Pennsylvania
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Virginia
- West Virginia

*The collection of records for these states in this database is incomplete. Therefore, it is possible that an ancestor, who fits the age requirement of this registration and is from one of these states, will not currently be found in this database.

Records for additional states will be added to this database as Ancestry can acquire them.

The original draft registration cards for the following states were destroyed several years ago and were never microfilmed before they were destroyed. Therefore, there will never be records for these states in this database.

- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee

Draft Continues (records are not available due to privacy laws)

The [Selective Service System](#) wants you to know that the requirement to register for the military draft did not go away with the end of the Vietnam War. Under the law, virtually all male U.S. citizens, and male aliens living in the U.S., who are ages 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service.

Since there is no draft currently in effect, and men are not being classified for service, disabled men, clergymen, and men who believe them to be conscientiously opposed to war must also register. Men who do not register could be prosecuted and, if convicted, fined up to \$250,000 and/or serve up to five years in prison.

(Submitted by Eleanor McMurchy)

World Vital Records--Ten New English Databases--Anguline Research Archives

The Court Rolls of the Honor of Clitheroe in the County of Lancaster, Volume 1

Transcripts of the Manor Court Rolls for the period 1377-1567. Also includes a list of the tenants and freeholders in 1443 and a list of the names of jurors for the period 1523 – 1567. Full of interesting information with many names of people included.

Memorial Inscriptions in Churchyard of Ratray

Transcripts of the memorial inscriptions the churchyard. Also includes some photographs of gravestones. Complete with an index of names.

The International Genealogical Dictionary

This is a directory of research interests submitted by genealogists from Great Britain, Ireland, America, Germany and other countries. It could prove useful to today's researchers in providing links to family lines. Also includes an index to special lines of research and an index of surnames.

Cenotaphs in the Wakefield Area

Transcripts and photographs of 76 war memorials in the West Yorkshire city of Wakefield and its surrounding towns and villages. They include cenotaphs on roadsides, village greens, inside churches and institutions. Full searchable by surname. Useful for genealogists and military historians.

The Northern Genealogist, January 1895

Contains manor rolls, marriage bonds, indexes of wills, parish registers, genealogical notes from Durham and more.

List of the Roman Catholics in the County of York 1604

Taken from the original manuscripts held in the Bodleian Library, with additional genealogical notes, this listing of Roman Catholic Recusants and Noncommunicants covers towns and villages all across Yorkshire. Hundreds of names are featured, together with useful family and biographical details. Includes indexes of persons and places.

Registra Antiqua de Caerwent, 1568 – 1812 In Comitatu Monumethensi, Text in English.

Transcribed from the original register books and edited by Bradney, to which is added a short account of the parishes and vicars.

The Eton Register: Continuation of Stapleton's Eton School Lists, 1893-1899

Contains list of provosts, fellows, masters, assistant masters and more.

The Registers of the Cathedral Church of Rochester, 1657- 1837

Transcripts of the registers (baptism, marriages and burials) for the Cathedral Church of Rochester covering the period 1657-1837. Also contains lists of Prebendaries, headmasters of the Grammar School, Minor Canons and Organists, plus inscriptions in the Cathedral and Churchyard. Complete with an index of names.

The Roffensian Register, Containing the Names of all Members of the School, 1835 – 1920

The Register of the King's School, Rochester, Kent. Contains names of all members of the school from 1835-1920. Also includes names of Headmasters from 1552, Second Masters from 1599, Governors' Exhibitioners from 1550, Gunsley Exhibitioners from 1618, etc.

About Anguline Research Archives (ARA)

ARA was founded by GUY Etchells and Angela Petyt B.A. (hons.). ARA is an organization dedicated to offering rare books on CD at an affordable price. It caters to both

local history and family history researchers. ARA is located in Ossett, England. (Posted by Dick Eastman on February 13, 2009).

Who Was Saint Valentine?



Valentine's Day is the second most popular holiday to send a card. The Greeting Card Association claims that an estimated one billion cards are sent each year. Yet, most of the people who send the cards have no idea who Saint Valentine was. Even historians cannot agree.

According to some authorities, there were two Valentines. One was a priest and doctor who was martyred in the year 269, and the other was the bishop of Terni, who was brought to Rome to be tortured and executed in 273. Others say it was the same person. Both men (or the same man) have legends attributed to them concerning love and matrimony, legends that may or may not be true.

According to one rendition, Roman Emperor Claudius II issued an edict saying that his soldieries were not allowed to be married. Apparently, Claudius thought that married soldiers weren't as good as single soldiers. As you might imagine, this news was not well received among the military men. Valentine obviously disagreed with the edict and continued to marry young couples, even though Claudius forbade it. When Claudius found out, he ordered Valentine to be beheaded, and the sentence was soon carried out.

Whether the stories involve one man or two, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D.

Recognition of the holiday clearly had taken hold by the middle Ages. At that time, it was believed that birds begin mating in the middle of February. Even Chaucer wrote in the fourteenth century, "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day, whan every foul cometh there to choose his mate."

Nonetheless, this martyred saint probably is responsible for the fact that many of us are alive and walking the earth today. Without the excuse of Saint Valentine's Day, how many of our ancestors would never have courted and consequently never have married? How many of us would not have been born? Perhaps we all owe a debt of gratitude to Saint Valentine for our very existence. (Posted by Dick Eastman on February 13, 2009).

INTERLINK GENEALOGY BOOKS

Destination Canada:

A Guide to 20th century immigration records

Second edition, published January 2004. By Dave Obee. A vital reference for researchers dealing with arrivals in Canada in the past 100 years. It includes information on passenger lists, border crossing records, Immigration Branch records, and the National Registration File of lists, border crossing records, Immigration Branch records, the National Registration File of 1940, Russian Consular Records, Chinese Immigration 1885-1949, and more. C\$12.00

Discover Your Metis Ancestry A Beginner's Guide By Dr. John Roberts. 2008. A review of Canada's culture and history is incomplete without considering the contributions of the first truly unique Canadian people, the Metis. These descendants of Natives and Europeans were instrumental in Canada's westward expansion. C\$9.95

Back to the Land:

A Genealogical Guide to Finding Farms on the Canadian Prairies

Second edition, published December 2003. By Dave Obee. This is a vital reference for researchers working on the Canadian Prairies. It includes a basic summary of how to read land descriptions, as determined by the Dominion Land Survey. There are also maps of the three Prairie Provinces showing townships and ranges as well as – new in this edition – the boundaries of the electoral districts used in the 1901 census. There is also an index of townships, giving the matching sub-district in the 1901 census, and the census microfilm number. C\$9.95.

Finding Your Ancestors in Manitoba

By Laura Honowski. The author takes you through the '5 W' approach to help you redefine your goals and look for sources that you have overlooked. Information on Manitoba Research Centres to Find Manitoba Ancestors, Ethnic Settlement and Immigration Records, Manitoba Land Records, Manitoba Vital Records and Alternates, Census and Census Substitutes. C\$15.00

Canadian Railway Records—A Guide for Genealogists Revised and Expanded. By Althea Douglas and J. Creighton Douglas.

A guide to railway records and where to find them. A glossary and chronology included as well as an introduction to current sources on the Internet. C\$26.00

Tracing Your Saskatchewan Ancestors: A guide to the Records and How to Use Them Second Edition – June 2003, Edited by Laura M. Honowski.

Chapters on: Aboriginal Ancestry; Archives, Libraries and Museums; Cemetery and Funeral Home Records; Census Record; Church Records; Court Records; Education Records; Ethnic Settlements; Immigration/Emigration Records; Land Records; Maps, Gazetteers and Atlases; Military Records; Municipal Records; Newspaper Records; Vital Records. C\$26.00

Censuses of the Red River Settlement

Extracted and Edited by Gail Morin. An index to the censuses for the years 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1835, 1838, 1840 and 1843. Also includes the enumeration for the Village of Grantown or White Horse Plains, the Swampy Indian Settlement and Saulteux Indian Settlement. 1998, C\$49.95

Lethbridge 1891: A settlement becomes a town By Dave Obee. Published 1999,

Lethbridge 1891 includes a day-by-day account of life in Lethbridge in that year, as well as a census index and three other sources of names: a list of school students, a list of people who contributed to relief after the Springhill mine disaster, and a transcript from Henderson's Directory. (Free Download on Dave Obee's homepage).

French-Canadian Sources: A Guide for Genealogists

Provides detailed explanations about the major sources available to those seeking French-Canadian ancestors. This book is a six-year collaborative effort of the eight members of the French Canadian/Acadian Genealogical Society of Wisconsin's Publication Committee. They worked together to compile, review, and update articles relating to research and sources that had been published in the association's quarterly publication over a period of some fifteen years. C\$59.95

Royal Oak Burial Park

A History and Guide. By. Dave Obee.

This is the first comprehensive look at the largest municipal cemetery in British Columbia. It includes a history of the cemetery as well as section-by-section biographies of some of the people buried there. C\$15.00

Messages from the Dead

Finding and decoding ancient clues has taken on a renewed popularity with interest in the best selling Da Vinci Code. Even seasoned genealogists may be surprised to find that some secrets of the dead are right in front of us, if we only know how to read the signs.

Since prehistoric times, humans have adorned final resting places with symbols. Petroglyphs carved and painted in caves around the world tell stories of everyday lives. Mayan tomb art portrays terrifying skeletal warnings that echo that culture's fear of death. Elaborate Egyptian pyramids are filled with signs of deities and the promise of rebirth. Recently, it was announced that a 27,000-year-old burial cave (the oldest of its kind) had been found in France with a series of decorations painted on the walls.

Though gravesite adornments are nothing new to the human race, our memory for their meanings seems quite short in the tapestry of time.

Wander through any old cemetery and you're likely to see designs carved into the headstones: Some crude, some elaborate. Although it is safe to assume the meanings of standard images such as a cross (signifying Christianity and resurrection) or a weeping angel (a symbol of mourning), some are not so

easily decrypted. Other than memento mori (symbols of death and mortality such as skulls, crossbones and hourglasses), many gravestone icons can be broken down into basic categories.

Images of Nature

Fruits and grains of harvest present a clear parallel for the cycle of life.

Corn—ripe old age.

Fruits—eternal plenty

Grapes—blood of Christ, eternal life.

Sheaf of wheat—ripe for harvest, old age, fruitful life.

Flowers and bouquets in general represent sorrow and the fragility of life. Variations have more specific interpretations: Buds for a life cut short, full rose for prime of life or a severed stem for a life cut short. Particular flowers usually follow the Victorian "language of flowers" symbolism.

Animals or related objects, many of which were a part of the deceased's everyday life, represent a variety of beliefs and qualities of character.

Bee—industriousness, Christianity

Beehive—domestic virtues, education, abundance in heaven

Butterfly—early death, resurrection

Caterpillar—life, metamorphosis.

Dog—implies a good master, worthy of love

Dolphin—salvation bearer or souls across the water to heaven.

Dove—purity or eternal life

Fish—faith, life

Horseshoe—protection against evil

Lamb—innocence (especially child)

Lion—courage, strength

Owl—wisdom, solitude

Rooster—awakening, resurrection

Seashell—life everlasting

Specifically: Conch—wisdom; scallop—baptism

Squirrel clasping a nut—religious contemplation

Spider web—human frailty

Swallow—motherhood, spirit of children, consolation

"Tree stones" are grave markers that actually look like trees. They were most popular between 1880 and 1905, and were adopted as a symbol by the Woodmen of the

World organization for use by their members. Forms include: Seedlings (life everlasting), stump (life interrupted), stump with ivy (head of family), and trunk (brevity of life). Other varieties of trees and leaves held their own special meanings.

The phases of the day capture sentiments as well.

- Moon—death and rebirth.
- Star—divine guidance.
- Sun rising—renewed life.
- Sun shining—life everlasting.
- Sun setting—end of life.

Religious Symbolism

The number three usually represents the Holy Trinity of Christian faith (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). This could be in the form of a three linked chain (which was also used by the Odd Fellows society), three leaved shamrock, fleur-de-lis or triangle. Some religious-based icons are shared between faiths, and some are church-specific.

Alpha & Omega (first and last letters of the Greek alphabet)—the beginning and the end

Clouds—awakening to resurrection

Cup or chalice—the sacraments

Harp—praise to the Maker, hope

Menorah—divine wisdom; usually on tomb of a righteous woman

Obelisk—rebirth, connection between heaven and earth

Olive branch—peace, forgiveness

Open gates—soul entering heaven

Pyramid—resurrection, enlightenment

Rock—permanence, stability, Lord

Rope circle—eternity

Star of David—unity

Steps (three-tiered) – faith, hope and charity.

Fraternal/Professional Icons

Probably the most common emblems on gravestones in North America refer to the fraternal organizations of the Masons and the Woodmen of the World. Each has numerous variations, with specific meanings. Other associations and professions also have representative symbols.

Anchors/ships—hope or seafaring profession

Cannon—military service

Compass and set square—Freemasons, judgment

Crescent—inverted, with sabre and Egyptian head—Shriners

Crossed axes with MWA—Modern Woodmen of America

Crossed swords—high-ranking military person, or life lost in battle

Dove holding chain, with “R” inside crescent moon

Eagle—courage, faith, military

Flag—military, patriotism

Helmet—military service, strength

Star and Stripes around eagle—vigilance, liberty.

Pointing may not be polite, but it can be revealing. A single finger pointing up, of course, refers to the journey to heaven. If two fingers are pointing skyward, it suggests that the deceased was a member of the clergy. Fingers pointing down call the observer to reflect upon their earthly existence. Other fingers may be breaking a link in a chain, signifying the end of a life.

Numerous other signs lie in the markers of graveyards, each with their own secrets. They offer worthwhile clues to the sometimes mysterious puzzles of our ancestors’ lives. So the next time you walk through a cemetery, look beyond the names and dates. The answers you are searching for may already be set in stone. (Family Chronicle—March/April 2007 Kathleen Shanahan)

Family History Thoughts

The family: We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another’s desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together—Erma Bombeck

There’s one sad truth in life I’ve found.

While journeying east and west

The only folks we really wound

Are those we love the best.

We flatter those we scarcely know,

We please the fleeting guest,

And deal full many a thoughtless blow

To those who love us best.

--Ella Wheeler Wilcox